

MI-08 District Primer

In 2024, Democrat Kristen McDonald Rivet won this seat by **28,173 votes. That's close!** With a winning margin of *just 8 votes per precinct*, we can't afford to lose a single vote. With your help, we're going to **HOLD** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates

Filing Deadline: April 21

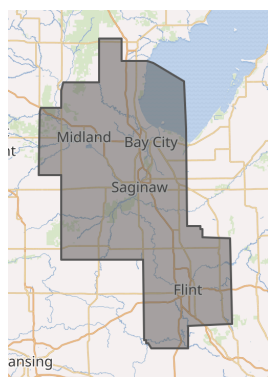
Primary: August 4

Midterms: November 3

Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
Harris: 209,502 (48.3) Trump: 218,093 (50.3%)	Kristen McDonald Rivet (D): 217,490 (51.3%) Paul Junge (R): 189,317 (44.6%)	Dan Kildee (D): 178,322 (53.1%) Paul Junge (R): 143,850 (42.8%)

District Facts & Stats



Largest Cities

- Flint: 81,266
- Saginaw: 44,207
- Midland: 42,644

Geography

Located in eastern Michigan, MI-08 stretches from the coast of Lake Huron in the northeast and includes the city of Flint in the south. The district is centered on the Tri-Cities area (Saginaw, Bay City, and Midland). Saginaw and Bay Counties are wholly in the district; Genesee, Midland, and Tuscola are partly in the district.

Citizenry

As of 2023, 99% of the population of MI-08 are U.S. citizens. About 74% of residents are white, 15% Black and 2.5% Hispanic. The district is socioeconomically mixed, with a combination of white- and blue-collar workers in manufacturing, health care, agriculture, retail and education. More than 59,000 households in the district participate in SNAP and about 189,000 people are enrolled in Medicaid.

The Local Vibe

The counties that include Flint and Saginaw lean more Democratic, while Midland and Bay City lean slightly Republican. Michigan voters will also choose a new Governor and U.S. Senator in 2026.

Tariffs will harm both the automotive industry and agriculture in the district by raising the price of imported supplies and the costs to export products. Auto manufacturing and its suppliers employ a great many in the district. Tariffs and the ending of subsidies for electric vehicles have shaken up the industry. Workers are concerned about their futures.

Thousands of residents have participated in the No Kings and anti-ICE protests in Flint and Saginaw, and dozens of protesters showed up in Bay City to protest Trump's military incursions into Venezuela.

Sign up for another event: mobilize.us/swingleft

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Key Issues

- **Affordability:** Rising prices worry many residents.
 - **Jobs:** The auto industry is particularly vulnerable to Trump's tariffs on essential supplies.
 - **Threats to essential services:** In addition to rising costs, thousands of district residents who rely on SNAP and Medicaid will lose access to these programs as a result of Trump's Big Ugly Bill.
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About the Candidates

Kristen McDonald Rivet | Democratic Incumbent

A lifelong Michigander, **Kristen McDonald Rivet** grew up in a small town and was the first in her family to go to college. She has always focused on family and working-class issues, including in her time at Michigan-based non-profits and at the state Department of Education. Elected to the U.S. House for MI-08 in 2024, she previously served as a state Senator, where she led the effort to pass the largest tax cut for working families in MI history and helped repeal Michigan's burdensome retirement tax. After the Dobbs decision she helped repeal Michigan's extreme abortion ban and enshrine the right to abortion in the state constitution. Before serving in elected office McDonald Rivet spent decades advocating for more affordable childcare and better education, including as Executive Director of Michigan Head Start, Chief of Staff for the Michigan Dept. of Education and Vice President of the Skillman Foundation. She serves on the House Committees on Agriculture and Transportation.

In Congress, McDonald Rivet has focused on kitchen-table economic issues like lowering the cost of prescription drugs, addressing the housing shortage, lowering childcare costs, protecting women's rights including the right to choose, and protecting consumers' rights and privacy. She has sponsored legislation on prescription drug affordability and to limit the period in which recipients must repay overpayments of Social Security.

Republican Challenger(s)

There is only one declared candidate at this time. We'll know more after the primary election on August 4.

Thirty-nine year old **Amir Hassan** is an African American and a Flint native. He returned to the district in mid-2025 when he announced his candidacy. He served in the U.S. Navy for several years and then in various federal law enforcement positions including in the Departments of Defense, Transportation and Homeland Security. Hassan claimed he didn't vote for Trump in 2024 because he said he was on the road so much for work, but he added that he would have done so as he is an America First Republican committed to backing Trump's agenda.

The contrast: Rep. McDonald Rivet has shown herself to be in tune with the needs of the people of MI-08, and effective in getting things done for them. She is very far from being the "career politician" her opponent has called her. Though she is a first term representative, Kristen McDonald Rivet has proved to be an effective legislator and someone who works hard for the people of her district. Her opponent has very little to recommend him.